

HONORARY NAMING OF HIGHWAY 99 GALER STREET PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE

BRIEFING PAPER

Prepared for the
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PURPOSE:

To consider a resolution requesting that the Galer Street pedestrian bridge over SR 99 (Aurora Avenue) be named in honor of former State Senator for the 36th District, Ray Moore.

ACTION/OUTCOME:

Passage of Resolution.

BACKGROUND:

This pedestrian bridge will allow pedestrians to walk safely and legally from the Queen Anne neighborhood to Lake Union by taking them over the very busy Highway 99 (Aurora Avenue). This area has historically been a highly dangerous, illegal pedestrian crossing, with 43 pedestrian accidents between 1987 and 2002. The bridge will be the only way for pedestrians to cross Aurora Avenue safely between Mercer Street and the Aurora Bridge, a distance of 2.03 miles. It also completes a walkway that stretches across Queen Anne hill from Lake Union to Puget Sound.

The bridge is equipped with special lighting to help pedestrians see the stairs at night. Fencing on either side of the bridge is eight feet high to protect vehicles traveling underneath from bridge debris. The stairs will also be equipped with unique bicycle grooves for cyclists to push their bikes up and down the stairs, and a mechanized stair lift will be available for those who use wheelchairs. Keys for the stair lift will be available from King County/Metro.

Initial state and federal funding was obtained in 1995, with more funding from the legislature and the City of Seattle in 2003, for a final project total of \$2.6 million. There were many public meetings to choose a design that would fit with the neighborhood and would allow pedestrians, bicycles and wheelchairs to share the bridge. The designers worked to create a look to the bridge that would blend with the Queen Anne and Lake Union neighborhoods. The design was completed in 1999 and design approval was received in 2001. Construction of the bridge began in July of 2003 and will be completed in June 2004.

DISCUSSION:

Ray Moore was a State Senator from the 36th legislative district from 1979 until 1994. Former Senator Moore made the initial recommendation for the pedestrian bridge and Senator Jeannie Kohl-Welles continued to work to achieve construction of the bridge when she succeeded Senator Moore. Ray Moore's initial recommendation and continued efforts for the funding and creation of a pedestrian bridge linking the Queen Anne and Lake Union neighborhoods in Seattle culminated in the construction of a pedestrian bridge across State Route 99 at Galer Avenue.

RECOMMENDATION:

Passage of Resolution which requests naming the bridge across Aurora Avenue at Galer Street that runs from Queen Anne Hill to the Westlake neighborhood, the "Ray Moore Bridge".

For further information, contact: Lorena Eng or Jennifer Ziegler